

ALLOCATION OF METAL MINES LICENSE TAX REVENUES AMONG LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

Department of Revenue distributes
METAL MINES LICENSE TAX:

25% to Impacted Counties.

57% to General Fund

58.5% to Reclamation and Development Grants Account

7% Hard Rock Mining Reclamation Account

2.5% to Hard Rock Mining Impact Trust Account to fund the Hard Rock Mining Impact Board.

Annual

HARD ROCK MINING IMPACT TRUST ACCOUNT

\$100,000 reserve account for adjudication expenses.

By October 31, the Hard Rock Mining Impact Board transfers the fiscal year-end balance of the administrative monies in the Hard-Rock Mining Impact Trust Account proportionally to the affected Counties.

Annual

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

allocates at least 37.5%

and

distributes the balance

COUNTY'S HARD-ROCK MINE TRUST RESERVE ACCOUNT

Following mine closure or a 50% reduction in mine workforce, the COMMISSIONERS allocate

Up to 2/3 to the COUNTY

County may expend \$ to:

- * Retire capital debts,
- * Stabilize mill levies
- * Promote economic diversification and development,
- * Attract new industry, or
- * Provide cash incentives for expanding the employments base;

OR

County may make grants or loans to other local government units to assist with the impacts caused by the workforce reduction or mine closure.

at least 1/3 proportionally among affected SCHOOL DISTRICTS in the county.

Districts may expend \$ for any purpose authorized by law.

1/3 to COUNTY

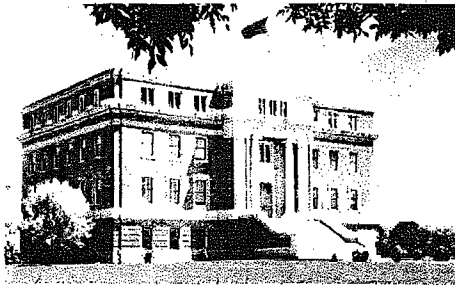
County holds principal and interest in METAL MINES TAX RESERVE ACCOUNT until expended for planning and economic development activities

1/3 to affected HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS

District holds principal and interest in METAL MINES TAX RESERVE ACCOUNT until expended for any purpose authorized by law.

1/3 to affected ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

District holds principal and interest in METAL MINES TAX RESERVE ACCOUNT until expended for any purpose authorized by law.



COUNTY OF STILLWATER
STATE OF MONTANA
STILLWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
P. O. BOX 970
COLUMBUS, MONTANA 59019

April 1, 2011

Montana Legislature
Senate Finance and Claims

RE: Stillwater County Opposes HB 316 as amended

Distinguished Chair and Members:

Stillwater County **opposes** revising the allocation of metalliferous mines license tax as proposed in HB 316. Stillwater County distributes these taxes first to a trust account that is set up by statute to be used if a mine closes or if there is a 50 % reduction in work force. The remaining money is distributed three ways between the County and the affected elementary and high school districts.

Stillwater County opposes changing the percentage hard rock mine counties receive in the disposition of metalliferous mines license tax through HB 316.

Stillwater County **would no longer oppose HB 316 if restored** to current language in 15-37-117, MCA.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
STILLWATER COUNTY

Dennis Shupak
Dennis Shupak, Chair

Gerald W. Dell
Gerald W. Dell

Maureen Davey
Maureen Davey